

BOER RETREAT CUT OFF

Official Reports of the British Success at Colesberg.

Guns of the Transvaal Forces Silenced After Three Hours' Action. Their Army Becomes Discouraged and Takes Refuge in Flight—The English Casualties Numbered Ten.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—Despatches were received at the War Office last night bringing a confirmation of the report of General French's success at Colesberg. Details of the operations by the British forces are also reported. A statement is made from the War Office this morning that the English position cuts off the line of retreat of some thousands of Boers, who with two guns are reported to be returning to Natal.

Additional details of General French's engagement as received at the War Office are as follows:

"The British guns opened immediately upon the extreme right of the Boers who quickly replied. We were near enough to see that the Boers were using British five-pounder field pieces. An inspection of their shells shows that they were manufactured in the Royal Laboratory at Woolwich. The aim of the Boers was poor and after three hours all their guns were out of action."

"Meanwhile the cavalry and horse artillery worked around to the north of the Boer position and poured in a heavy enfilading shell fire. The Boers became disorganized and were soon in full flight. Our loss was three killed and seven wounded. We will march into Colesberg tomorrow."

The public as well as the government are inclined to consider the success of General French as only a forerunner of a more general advance upon the Boers within a very brief period. It is argued by military experts that the generals in South Africa are alive to the necessity of keeping the Transvaal forces at other work than that of constructing fortifications.

Sir William Thomson, K. B., former President of the Royal College of Surgeons, has been appointed chief surgeon to the forces in South Africa.

General Gatacre's intelligence department states that the Boer loss in the fight at Dordrecht was thirty.

BOER GUNS SOON SILENCED.

Details of French's Attack Upon the Colesberg Position.

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 2.—(9:30 a. m.)—A despatch to the "Cape Times" from Rensburg Camp, dated January 1, says: "On Sunday afternoon a strong force, made up of the Infantry, Dragoons, the Tenth Hussars, the Buffs, and the Colonials, with ten guns of the Horse Artillery, all under command of General French, left Rensburg. They made a detour and, escaping observation by the enemy, occupied a strong position around the Boers, who were entrenched in the hills six miles south of Colesberg. There were 3,000 Boers, with six guns, in the commands."

"Next morning the British surprised the Boers and began shelling their position. The enemy's guns were soon silenced. A Hotchkiss gun hurled us for some time, but was eventually silenced and abandoned. Our shell fire was deadly and the enemy retreated in all directions."

"Our loss was three killed and seven wounded. The Boers' loss is supposed to have been severe. Our shells burst repeatedly among the Boers, causing them to retreat hurriedly without replying."

"The Boers are retreating along the Norval's Point road and our men are still shelling them."

A BOER DEFEAT AT SUNNYSIDE.

Lieutenant Adie and Three Other Englishmen Killed.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The War Office announces that at Sunnyside yesterday Lieutenant Colonel Pitcher defeated the Boers, capturing their laager and taking forty prisoners.

Lieutenant Adie was dangerously wounded in the engagement and died from his injuries a few hours after the battle. Three other men were killed, including two men belonging to the Queensland Mountain Infantry.

Sunnyside is about thirty miles northwest of Belmont, Cape Colony. Lieutenant Colonel Pitcher has been camping at Dover Farm, twenty miles northwest of Belmont.

INDIAN CHIEFS OFFER HORSES.

An Arab Chieftain to Be Sent to Gen. Roberts.

CALCUTTA, Jan. 2.—A native chieftain has offered horses to the British authorities for use in South Africa. The Maharajah of Patiala will send an Arab charger to Field Marshal Roberts.

CHAPELLE ARRIVES AT MANILA.

Given a Luncheon by the Spanish Archbishop.

MANILA, Jan. 2.—Archbishop Chapelle, the Papal Delegate to the Philippines, and Father McKinnon, late of the First California Regiment, but now a chaplain in the regular army, arrived here today. They were entertained at luncheon by the Spanish Archbishop of Manila.

EARTHQUAKES IN RUSSIA.

Ten Villages in the Government of Tiflis Destroyed.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 2.—An earthquake occurred on Monday in the district of Achakalak. In the government of Tiflis ten villages were destroyed.

Sickness Increasing at Ladysmith.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—The War Office has made public a message sent by General White at Ladysmith on December 31, in which he states that dysentery and fever is on the increase in his camp.

The King of Servia to Be Married.

BERLIN, Jan. 2.—A despatch from Budapest to the "Berliner Tageblatt" announces the engagement of King Alexander of Servia to the Archduchess Marie Christine, daughter of Archduke Frederick.

Roland Reed's Health Improving.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Roland Reed, the actor who has been seriously ill at St. Luke's Hospital, was reported this morning as feeling much better. It is now believed he will recover.

THE OPEN DOOR POLICY.

The Report of Secretary Hay Pleases the Cabinet.

Secretary Hay was able to lay before the President and the Cabinet at their regular meeting today, the gratifying information that, of the six foreign nations interpellated by the State Department concerning the preservation of American commercial interest in China, five had responded in a way that was very satisfactory to the United States, the fifth answer, that of Russia, being received this morning.

Italy is the only country that has not sent a reply to indicate her attitude in connection with the interpellation, but with the great powers of Europe united in acquiescing in the request of this Government there is little doubt felt here that she will find it in her interest to follow their example.

The details of the negotiations were not explained to the Cabinet, but Secretary Hay gave enough information in his brief address that his speech in the French Chamber of Deputies was not of a character which could be construed as binding on that nation in regard to the maintenance of American treaty rights in that part of China under French control.

The statement has been made in newspapers that France's answer had been given to the United States by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in a verbal interview with General Porter, the United States Ambassador in Paris, by the avowment of Mr. Delcasse, but the French government has not yet made any official statement.

As a matter of fact, the French answer was sent in the form of a written communication binding the government officially to the United States of the American treaty rights in the Flowery Kingdom. The position of France in the matter has been peculiar in that she has never recognized the right of the United States to the right of the Flowery Kingdom.

She has maintained that she claimed no authority outside of the territory actually in French possession. In spite of this, the United States is considered to have been practically anything that the United States desired.

The first matter to come before the House for serious consideration will be the appropriation bill, which provides for increased military expenditures due to the war in the Philippines, and the annual Pension Appropriation bill, which is reported to the House on Friday.

THE LAWTON FUND.

Nearly \$40,000 in Cash Received for the Widow's Benefit.

The actual cash subscriptions received by Adjutant General Corbin for the Lawton Home Fund have reached \$39,363.75. General Corbin predicted yesterday that he would have \$35,000 in cash on hand today, and when the total was announced as being only a few hundred dollars less than \$40,000 the general was surprised.

"I expected to have at least \$35,000 in cash today," he said, "but the \$39,000 is truly wonderful. It shows that the committee made no mistake when they appealed to the public to assist General Lawton's widow and children, and I believe we will have about \$20,000 of the interest of Pittsburg, Pa., have over \$1,500 yet to be sent in; the Union League Clubs of New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago are raising \$1,000 each; the Commercial Union of New York has raised about \$7,000, and other cities have raised smaller sums, making in all about \$15,000, which is only about \$2,000 short of the \$17,000 the committee hopes to raise. This \$39,000 the committee thinks will be easily subscribed between now and Friday, when the fund will be closed."

In addition to the money being raised for the home fund, the citizens of Indianapolis have started a fund to build a monument to General Lawton, and will obtain subscriptions throughout the State of Indiana for the monument fund. A press despatch several days ago announced that the monument fund had reached the sum of \$800.

Following are principal cash subscriptions received since Saturday noon: Subscriptions received by Evening Star, Kansas City, \$1,000; subscriptions forwarded through Alex. H. Revell, December 28, \$1,195; the "Chicago Times-Herald," through Alex. H. Revell, Chicago, \$100; subscriptions of citizens of St. Louis, through Charles Parsons, \$1,740; Dr. W. Seward Webb, New York, \$250; George Peabody, Washington, D. C., \$100; Francis H. Leggett & Co., New York, \$100; Austin, Nicholas & Co., New York, \$100; through Alfred Corning Clark, New York, \$1,000; Senator W. A. Clark, \$150; William F. Barbour, New York, \$100.

AN ISTHMIAN CANAL ROUTE.

The President Has a Conference With Rear Admiral Walker.

Rear Admiral Walker, President of the Isthmian Canal Commission, called at the White House today to say good-bye to the President before leaving Washington to look over the proposed route of the canal. Admiral Walker stated that the Commission hoped to leave New York for Greytown on the Isthmus on Saturday, and that they would at once begin work going over the proposed route of the canal. The President is greatly interested in the proposed canal and Admiral Walker spent some time in talking over the plans of the Commission with him.

General Ernst and other officers of the Commission visited Paris last summer and obtained valuable data in regard to the proposed French canal which will be of great assistance to them in their work. Admiral Walker stated that they would inspect several routes and would then report to the President of the most practical route for the canal, and the estimated amount of what it would cost to construct it.

The Case of Mr. Quay.

The Contest Not to Interfere With the Finance Bill.

At the last meeting of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections an adjournment was taken in the Quay case until Friday of the present week, but it is probable that little will be done on that date. There will be no further hearings in the case before the committee, as the important evidence is now all in, but a considerable time will be required in which to formulate the reports and have them printed.

It is expected that two distinct reports will be laid before the Senate, one of which will contain the evidence and arguments favorable to the seating of Mr. Quay, while the other will contain those of an opposite character.

Senator Chandler, Chairman of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, stated this morning that the Quay case will probably be brought up in the Senate within ten days or two weeks, but that the exact date had not yet been decided upon. He stated that it will depend largely upon the time required to complete the work of the committee. A lively discussion is expected as soon as the report of the Elections Committee is submitted.

Every effort will be made by the Republican leaders to secure a vote on the Quay bill without interruption from those who are anxious to be heard in the Quay case. This will be rendered the more difficult by the postponement of the reports on the latter, while the Quay bill will be taken up at once, and an early consideration of it will be insisted upon.

The conditions are not such as to encourage the minority in using the contest over Mr. Quay as an aid to filibustering in order to prevent a vote on the financial measure, and these two important questions will doubtless be kept from interference with each other.

CHAIRMAN BARCOCK'S CALL.

The House District Committee to Be Organized Tomorrow.

Chairman Barcock, of the District Committee, has issued a call for a meeting of his committee on Thursday when he will organize and appoint subcommittees and

PROGRAMME OF CONGRESS

Measures to Be Discussed During the Present Session.

The Urgent Deficiency Bill to Have the Right of Way in the House. Senators May Vote on Currency on February 1—Subsidy for American Ships—Reorganization of the Army.

Congress will reconvene at noon tomorrow. The real work of the session will be begun, though it is the understanding at the Capitol that little will be accomplished this week.

The legislative programme of the House has been determined on, and contemplates prompt action on the Currency bill which was passed by the House on Monday, December 18. There is said to be no desire on the part of the opponents of this bill in the Senate to unnecessarily delay it, and it is also said that it will not be pressed so rapidly to its passage as to occasion inconvenience to those Senators who wish to discuss it at length. The opponents of the measure admit that they will be unable to defeat it. The majority leaders believe that a vote will be reached about February 1.

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RIVER AND HARBOR BILL.

Prospects for Its Passage at This Session of Congress.

A River and Harbor appropriation bill will be passed this session unless Speaker Henderson should decide to the contrary, so it was said at the Capitol today.

In the Fifth Congress Speaker Reed held up the River and Harbor bill during the first session of that Congress, and the holding up of the bill, it is claimed, caused the defeat of many Republicans.

Representative Ball, of Texas, who is a member of the River and Harbor Committee, said today that he could think of no good reason why a River and Harbor bill should not be passed this session.

"I think it is a mistake to think of it just as well for us to spend some money on internal improvements instead of spending all the revenues of the Government on our war," he said, "and I think it is a mistake to say that a River and Harbor bill will pass this session."

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VICTIMS OF THE FLAMES

Thrilling Scenes at the New York Tenement House Fire.

One Person Killed and Many Injured. Struggling Forms of Tenants Silhouetted Against a Lurid Background—A Girl's Desperate Leap to Save Her Life—Forgot Fire Escapes.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—In the five-story tenement-house fire at 754 First Avenue, which occurred here between 1 and 2 o'clock this morning, the casualties are shown to be one person, a girl named Leonard, smothered to death; five members of the same family, more or less injured, and five other persons hurt. There were thirty tenants in the building. The list of victims is as follows:

Dead: Loretta Leonard, sixteen years old, smothered by smoke.

Injured: Edward Leonard, aged thirty-nine, lacerations and burns of hands and face, received by sliding down a rope from the fifth story.

Margaret Leonard, wife of Edward, aged forty, overpowered by smoke; taken to Bellevue Hospital.

Nancy Leonard, fourteen, lacerations and burns.

Joseph Leonard, ten, inhaled smoke and flames, may die; taken to a hospital.

Paula Trachman, sixty-three, right arm sprained